

Weare Conservation Commission

Minutes

December 10, 2003

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In attendance were: Andy Fulton, Pat Myers, Ellen Dokton, and John Ciampi.

Guests included Frank Bolton.

Meeting commenced at 7:04 PM.

1) **Minutes of Nov. 12, 2003** - John Ciampi read the draft version of last months' meeting. Proposed changes included: in section #1, the wording "*compensatory mitigation*" shall be struck and replaced with the wording, "*designated open space*"; In section #2, the word "*assess*" shall be changed to "*access*"; in section #4, the wording, "*the open space area is not suitable to function as a wildlife corridor*" shall be struck and replaced with, "*the problem the Commission has with this proposal is that the currently designated open space areas may not be sufficient space to support a viable wildlife corridor*"; in section #7, "*Tom Christianson*" shall be replaced with "*Bob Christianson*". And also, in this same section, the word "*empathize*" shall be replaced with "*emphasize*". Also in section #7, the spelling "*groups*" shall be replaced with the spelling "*group's*". In section #9, the wording "*poorly drained soil, and not as poorly drained wetlands,*" shall be reversed to read, "*poorly drained wetlands, and not as poorly drained soil*". In section #10, "*Wildly*" shall be replaced with "*Willey*", and in section #11, the wording, "*web accessed information on site specific endangered species without the need of a secondary layer of approval*", shall be replaced with, "*making town wide site specific rare and endangered species information, maintained by the N.H. Heritage Bureau, made available to the WCC and/or PB upon request*". Pat Myers entertained motion to accept the minutes as revised, and Ellen Dokton 2nd. All members approved the minutes as revised.

2) **Frank Bolton** - spoke in summary of the use of ATV's on designated open space property correlating to cluster developments, and in particular to his predilection to develop a connected network of trails utilizing these open space corridors. Pat Myers ushered the fact that these properties all have varying degrees of prestipulated allowed public usage, so a blanket agreement would not conform to all proper land usage as they were initially proposed. Pat also commented that currently the Commission is experiencing a surfeit of violations associated with ATV activity on town trails, and it would be frustrating, to say the least, to permit more ATV access to the trails without adequately addressing the problems presently plaguing the Commission concerning irresponsible ATV use. However, the WCC has no problem with incorporating language allowing hunting/fishing on these properties subject to state and

federal regulations. Andy mentioned that there could be a co-utilization of these trails, allowing usage for ATV's, snowmobiles, and a wildlife passageway.

3) Wetland land applications – none submitted.

4) Planning Board – Tarrand Development LLC, on High Rock Road, proposing an eight lot standard subdivision. The most recent update on this plan was August 8, 2003. It appears that the Planning Board has recently denied this plan due to a dangerous intersection, and this update was sent to the Commission for review and comment. Also on the PB agenda is Kenneth Desjardin LLC, on Meadow Dr., proposing a sixteen lot cluster subdivision. The most recent update was November 20, 2003. The Commission was asked to comment on this plan, and no issues with it prevailed.

5) Zoning Board – a letter was sent to Zoning from the WCC recommending approval of wetland impact for a special exception to Cellular One cell tower on Norris Rd.

6) Wetland Bureau actions – a letter was received from DES concerning Rolling Hill Trust, file #02555, that their application was received complete. Also, a notification was received from DES that the application of William and Naomi Bolton 42 Norris Rd. was received completed. And finally, a letter from DES concerning D.S. Noble LLC was received completed.

7) Congressman Bass letter – a letter written by Congressman Charlie Bass was sent to Robert Varney, of the EPA, regarding Bio Energy LLC of Hopkinton, and this letter was made available to the WCC. This letter, in compendium, encourages the EPA to listen to the voice of the local citizenry. The apparent intent of this letter was informational.

8) Hillsborough County Conservation District – has made notification that it will no longer be providing enlargements of county soil survey maps to developers and to towns for use on subdivision and site plans stating that the maps were never intended for site specific use or otherwise used at scales other than originally published. Andy stated that he doesn't know what the PB's position has been on site specific soil survey's; however, he mentioned that the Commission should request to the PB that they encourage developers to support site specific soil lines so that it may more accurately reflect the degree of development density the land could support.

9) Letter to John Ciampi – from the SPHNF regarding the Collins Ledge site visit this past fall. Included in this letter was an aerial photograph of the Collins Ledge easement property. John presented a brief review of the site walk and Andy read the contents of the letter. John stated that he plans to contact surveyor Art Siciliano to resurvey critical boundaries, especially some interior sections, and the boundary along the adjacent developments.

10) Training ops – a training opportunity notification from the UNH cooperative extension in Manchester is offering training opportunities to teach more about natural resources in one's community. It includes 11 sessions

taught by natural resource specialists. The crux of this program is to train those interested in the program, and have them return to their communities where they can apply their knowledge.

11) Other – Pat mentioned that she received a call from a certain town resident who read an article in the local newspaper concerning ATV use on town forest property. His concern was that this particular area in question, which he is quite familiar, has high habitat quality. He advised the Commission to maintain a watchful eye on this issue. This same individual also mentioned that there is a small brook in the Melvin Valley area which is, according to his studies, the coldest brook in Weare, and which has the potential to support native trout. Pat stressed that this brook is worthy of protection because once it's lost, it's gone forever.

Bobby Reeve, town forest manager, called Pat Myers concerning the ATV club that wants to construct a trail on town forest property. Apparently, he isn't quite sure of their intentions, only having rudimentary knowledge of their intent through confusing messages left on his home phone.

Andy mentioned that he plans to touch base with Paul Morin, PB chair, to inform him that he intends to generate a warrant article that would allow the Commission access to information provided by the Natural Heritage Inventory, indicating the location of rare and endangered species. This information would be used by the WCC and WPB to be used in such instances as inclusion in the Master Plan, Resource Inventory documentation, and general planning purposes. This warrant article would also set a state precedent. Discussion continued along this agenda extolling the advantages of having this information available.

12) Motion to adjourn – motion was made by John Ciampi to adjourn, and was 2nd by Pat Myers. All voted to adjourn. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Ciampi

cc: town clerk
BOS
Commission files